



University students exchange ideas during forum



Students of Mustansiriya University participate in a student forum held at Baghdad University. The forum gave student the opportunity to ask questions of an assembled panel made up of commanders from the 1st Armored Division and a representative of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD.

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Students of Mustansiriya University freely exchanged ideas among themselves and leaders from the Coalition Provisional Authority and Task Force 1st Armored Division during an open forum held at Baghdad University March 29.

"It's important that students are able to talk to those individuals who can provide them answers with their concerns about the university, the interim constitution and other issues they may be facing," said forum moderator Maj. Robert Davis, 1st Brigade Combat Team information officer.

Responding to the students' questions was a four-member panel: Ed White, Coalition Provisional Authority Ambassador; Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commanding general; Col. Peter Mansoor, 1st Brigade commander; and, Lt. Col. John Kem, 16th Engineer Battalion commander.

"I look forward to a spirited exchange where we encourage you to ask any questions that may be on your mind," Mansoor said in opening remarks to the forum.

More than 100 students attended the meeting. Their questions ranged from security of the university, withdrawal of American forces from Iraq, current curriculum standards and the status of basic infrastructure services such as power and water.

Students spoke with zeal on each of these issues but the absence of the Iraqi flag provoked the most heated exchange.

"How can you not call this an occupation? How can you call us a free Iraq when only the American flag stands behind you?" asked one student.

The admitted mistake would prove to be a significant issue as several student speakers commented on the absence of the flag.

After the fourth student raised the issue, Mansoor explained the error.

This was the third student forum held, he said. During the previous two, the Iraqi flag had stood next to the American flag. The location of the forum had moved from its originally planned location of Mustansiriya University to Baghdad University.

"There wasn't an Iraqi flag at the facility," Mansoor said. "Its absence was a regrettable error. No offense was intended."

While engaging the panel in discussion, students also took the opportunity to address their peers.

"I, for one, would like to thank the coalition for all that they have done," said an engineering student. "I disagree with many (the students) that (coalition forces) should leave Iraq immediately. We are not yet ready to stand on our own."

The comment launched the student body into a heated discussion until the forum moderator reestablished control and got the meeting back on track.

After an hour of discussion, the forum broke for refreshments and gave the students an opportunity for worship. Reconvening half an hour later, a smaller audience picked up where it left off, engaging the panel for an additional 45 minutes.

Davis, bringing the forum to a close, thanked the students and the panel members for their attendance and time and offered hope that forums of this nature would continue in the future.

"There are many people who would intimidate you to think a certain way," Dempsey told the students. "It is important to note, we don't care what you think, as long as you are free to come to that conclusion on your own."

The Old Ironsides Report April 1, 2004

NEWS...

Iraqis Drag Four Corpses Through Streets

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) - Jubilant residents dragged the charred corpses of four foreign contractors - including at least one American - through the streets Wednesday and hanged them from the bridge spanning the Euphrates River. Five American soldiers died in a roadside bombing nearby. The four contract workers for the U.S.-led coalition were killed in a rebel ambush of their SUVs in Fallujah, a Sunni Triangle city about 35 miles west of Baghdad and scene of some of the worst violence on both sides of the conflict since the beginning of the American occupation a year ago.

OPEC to Cut Oil Production by 4 Percent

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - OPEC will cut its production target by 4 percent as scheduled, several oil ministers said Wednesday - a move that analysts say could drive crude oil prices higher even as U.S. customers are already facing high gasoline prices. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which pumps about a third of the world's oil, will reduce its output ceiling by 1 million barrels per day.

Jewish Settlers Spark Clash in Arab Area

JERUSALEM (AP) - Jewish settlers with assault rifles slung over their shoulders moved into two buildings in a crowded Arab neighborhood of Jerusalem on Wednesday, sparking clashes between Israeli troops and Arab residents. Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, condemned the incident, saying it proved Israel was more interested in expanding settlements than in making peace.

Court: U.S. Violated Mexicans' Rights

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - The International Court of Justice ruled Wednesday that the United States violated the rights of 51 Mexicans on death row and ordered their cases be reviewed. The United Nations' highest judiciary, also known as the world court, was considering a suit filed by Mexico claiming 52 convicted murderers weren't given their right to assistance from their government.

***Thought for the day...* Heavenly Help**

A small boy was trying very hard to lift a heavy stone. His father, happening by and noting the son's failure, said to him, "Are you using all your strength?" "Yes, I am," the boy exclaimed impatiently. "No", replied the father, "You are not since you have not asked me to help." All too often, when confronted by obstacles in life, we try to 'move' them with our own strength and forget that the Father stands 'ready, willing, and able' to help.

Entertainment...

Broadcasters to Hold Indecency Summit

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The broadcast industry is meeting with regulators and critics behind closed doors to discuss ways of responding to growing complaints about indecent programming.

The daylong summit comes as the Federal Communications Commission promises a crackdown and lawmakers prepare to raise the fines for indecency on over-the-air television and radio.

"I have never seen such broad consensus on an issue," said L. Brent Bozell III, president of the Parents Television Council, a conservative advocacy group. "People have just said, 'Enough is enough. These are our airwaves. You are violating a trust and we have the right to knock you off for doing this.'"

Bozell was one of several speakers addressing the broadcasters in a closed meeting Wednesday.

Another was FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, who has been pressing his colleagues to start revoking the licenses of stations that repeatedly air indecent programs. He warned that regulators and lawmakers are serious about holding broadcasters accountable.

Broadcasters say the summit is evidence that they take the issue seriously.

In advance of the summit, the four major networks on Tuesday announced a new advertising campaign to highlight the V-chip, which uses the voluntary TV ratings system to allow parents to block specific programs.

Federal law bars radio stations and over-the-air television channels from airing references to sexual and excretory functions between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children may be tuning in. The rules do not apply to cable and satellite channels or satellite radio.

Pressure to more intensely enforce the law has grown since the now-infamous Feb. 1 Super Bowl halftime show that ended with singer Justin Timberlake exposing Janet Jackson's right breast to millions of TV viewers. The incident generated more than 500,000 complaints.

About a month later, the House voted to raise the maximum indecency fine to \$500,000, and the Senate Commerce Committee approved similar language. The FCC has announced several large fines recently and told broadcasters that virtually any use of the f-word was inappropriate for over-the-air radio and television.

Broadcasters have been taking steps on their own. The broadcast networks began airing live programming on a time delay, and Clear Channel Worldwide, the nation's largest radio station chain, adopted a code of conduct for its personalities, suspended shock jock Howard Stern from its six stations that carried him, and paid a record \$755,000 indecency fine for broadcasts by the disc jockey known as "Bubba the Love Sponge," who was fired.

Some observers say these actions infringe on free speech.

"The First Amendment was designed to protect minority rights, meaning that even if a majority of Americans find something objectionable, that does not mean that the media should just go ahead and do whatever that majority wants," said Paul Levinson, chairman of the department of communications and media studies at Fordham University.

Government watchdogs criticized the decision to keep the summit closed.

"For some reason, they don't want the public to have any information about what they're thinking about on an issue that the public is obviously engaged about," said Celia Wexler, vice president for advocacy at Common Cause, which is fighting FCC regulations allowing broadcasters to own more television stations. "If they think they have good ideas about dealing with this problem, the public wants to hear them."

Wharton said the meeting was closed "in order to really have an honest and serious discussion and dialogue."

Today in History...

April 1, 1918: RAF FOUNDED

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On April 1, 1918, the Royal Air Force (RAF) is formed with the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). The RAF took its place beside the British navy and army as a separate military service with its own ministry.

In April 1911, eight years after Americans Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first flight of a self-propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft, an air battalion of the British army's Royal Engineers was formed at Larkhill in Wiltshire. The battalion consisted of aircraft, airship, balloon, and man-carrying kite companies. In December 1911, the British navy formed the Royal Naval Flying School at Eastchurch, Kent. In May 1912, both were absorbed into the newly created Royal Flying Corps, which established a new flying school at Upavon, Wiltshire, and formed new airplane squadrons. In July 1914, the specialized requirements of the navy led to the creation of RNAS.

One month later, on August 4, Britain declared war on Germany and entered World War I. At the time, the RFC had 84 aircraft, and the RNAS had 71 aircraft and seven airships. Later that month, four RFC squadrons were deployed to France to support the British Expeditionary Force. During the next two years, Germany took the lead in air strategy with technologies like the manual machine gun, and England suffered bombing raids and frustration in the skies against German flying aces such as Manfred von Richthofen, "The Red Baron." Repeated German air raids led British military planners to push for the creation of a separate air ministry, which would carry out strategic bombing against Germany. On April 1, 1918, the RAF was formed along with a female branch of the service, the Women's Royal Air Force. That day, Bristol F.2B fighters of the 22nd Squadron carried out the first official missions of the RAF.

By the war's end, in November 1918, the RAF had gained air superiority along the western front. The strength of the RAF in November 1918 was nearly 300,000 officers and airmen, and more than 22,000 aircraft. At the outbreak of World War II, in September 1939, the operational strength of the RAF in Europe had diminished to about 2,000 aircraft.

In June 1940, the Western democracies of continental Europe fell to Germany one by one, leaving Britain alone in its resistance to Nazi Germany. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler planned an invasion of Britain and in July 1940 ordered his powerful air force--the *Luftwaffe*--to destroy British ports along the coast in preparation. The outnumbered RAF fliers put up a fierce resistance in the opening weeks of the Battle of Britain, leading the *Luftwaffe* commanders to place destruction of the British air fleet at the forefront of the German offensive. If the Germans succeeded in wiping out the RAF, they could begin their invasion as scheduled in the fall.

During the next three months, however, the RAF successfully resisted the massive German air invasion, relying on radar technology, more maneuverable aircraft, and exceptional bravery. For every British plane shot down, two *Luftwaffe* warplanes were destroyed. In October, Hitler delayed the German invasion indefinitely, and in May 1941 the Battle of Britain came to an end. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said of the RAF pilots, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

By the war's end in 1945, the strength of the RAF was nearly one million personnel. Later, this number was reduced and stabilized at about 150,000 men and women.



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The Old Ironsides Report

April 1, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, APRIL 01, 2004				As of: Wednesday, March 31, 2004 8:13:31 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - TOOLS OF DECEPTION	TODAY	ARMY HEALTHWATCH SPECIAL EDITION - ARMY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM REPORT ON SUICIDES IN IRAQ	00:00
00:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			LESTER HOLT LIVE	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		CHEATERS			01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER	THE FUGITIVE		SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30					NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NHL - DETROIT RED WINGS @ COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS		ROCKET POWER (TVY): - SIM SAMMY/ OTTO HANGS 11	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00		DRAGNET	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BURNS VERKAUFEN DER KRAFTWERK	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CLIFF IN CHARGE			04:30
05:00			DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - DUTCH TREAT	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	NHL 2NIGHT		MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - A LITTLE ROMANCE			05:30
06:00	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - THE BLACK VERA WANG	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		06:30
07:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE WILD WEST	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		07:25
07:30		HEADLINE NEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE COLORADO RIVER		NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	NBA FASTBREAK	SESAME STREET	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - INSIDE THE VATICAN		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		08:13
08:30	TENNIS - NASDAQ 100 OPEN - MEN'S QUARTERFINALS					08:30
09:00		BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - ME & MRS. JONES	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS (TVG): - THE MAKING OF ...	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - THE APTITUDE TEST/ OSKAR GETS A JOB		09:30
10:00		THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30	ESPNEWS			JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - LOST CITY OF MUNTABS		10:30
10:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				10:46
11:00	NHL - MONTREAL CANADIENS @ NY ISLANDERS		ROCKET POWER (TVY): - SIM SAMMY/ OTTO HANGS 11	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				11:35
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BURNS VERKAUFEN DER KRAFTWERK	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				12:17
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CLIFF IN CHARGE	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE CHANDLER GETS CAUGHT	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:25				FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE THE STRIPPER CRIES		13:25
13:30	SPORTSCENTER	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - A LITTLE ROMANCE			13:30
13:55				REEL TIME		13:55
14:00		DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS (TVG): - THE MAKING OF ...	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - THE BLACK VERA WANG		60 MINUTES II	14:00
14:05				EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - CANDACE AND JOHN		14:05
14:30	NBA FASTBREAK	HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - THE APTITUDE TEST/ OSKAR GETS A JOB				14:30
15:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	TODAY	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE WILD WEST		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:05				E.R. (TVPG): - DEATH AND TAXES		15:05
15:30	SPORTS SPECIAL - MCDONALD'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ALL-AMERICAN GAME		EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE COLORADO RIVER			15:30
16:00			NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - INSIDE THE VATICAN	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - ME & MRS. JONES		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - LOST CITY OF MUNTABS		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	BEYOND THE GLORY	JEOPARDY! (TVG):			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - SIM SAMMY/ OTTO HANGS 11	BEN HUR		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			19:30
20:00	NBA FASTBREAK	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE CHANDLER GETS CAUGHT	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BURNS VERKAUFEN DER KRAFTWERK		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:25		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WHERE THE STRIPPER CRIES				20:25
20:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT		THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CLIFF IN CHARGE			20:30
20:55		REEL TIME				20:55
21:00	MLB - SPRING TRAINING - HOUSTON ASTROS @ ATLANTA BRAVES		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:05		EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - CANDACE AND JOHN				21:05
21:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - A LITTLE ROMANCE			21:30
22:00			THE WEST WING (TVPG): - THE BLACK VERA WANG		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:05		E.R. (TVPG): - DEATH AND TAXES				22:05
23:00		HEADLINE NEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE WILD WEST	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE COLORADO RIVER	HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30